

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. In a democracy, we have a responsibility to make sure that our public airways are not used in a way that compromises our true democratic values....truth, honesty and fairness. We need to see honest debate and discussion, not mudslinging and unsubstantiated accusations. To allow an unsubstantiated film on public airways, not as an advertisement, makes our media look like that of a dictatorship, not the democracy we are. If we want to be a model for democracies throughout the world, we must act like one. Please do not allow Sinclair to air his attacking, unsubstantiated film as "news." It shames us to think that this represents us to the world.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.